

Outlook

THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND FACULTY AND STAFF WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

Volume 15 • Number 13 • November 28, 2000

CORNEL
WEST
COMES TO
NYUMBURU
CENTER,
PAGE 5



Review Day Gives Scholars a Chance to Shine

Researchers, professors and the curious gathered at the Inn and Conference Center for the university's first Biosciences Research and Technology Review Day on Nov. 13.

The free event offered presentations by those specializing in chemical engineering, kinesiology, biology and computer science in the morning. During the afternoon, attendees could view posters, demonstrations and exhibits while enjoying lunch. Though some of the projects' titles may have been beyond a lay person's grasp, many of the researchers gladly explained their work in understandable terms.

Co-sponsored by the Division of Research and Graduate Studies and Sigma

Review Day organizers (l-r)
William W. Destler, Ph.D., vice president for research and dean for graduate studies and **Andrea Levy, J.D.,** assistant vice president for academic affairs, policy and planning, with **Jan Johannessen, Ph.D.**

continued on page 3



Photo by Cynthia Mitchell

UM Celebrates 20 Years of Jewish Studies

The university celebrates 20 years of Jewish studies with the inauguration of Marsha Rozenblit as the new Harvey M. Meyerhoff professor of Jewish History. The reception is from 4 to 6 p.m. on Dec. 11 in the Atrium of Stamp Student Union.

The event will also honor the Meyerhoff family and other donors.

Maryland is home to one of the largest undergraduate Jewish studies programs in North America. Almost 600 students take some course work in the Jewish studies unit, Rozenblit said. Thirty or so make it their major course of study.

Jewish studies is an interdisciplinary major that draws courses from history, philosophy, English, women's studies, and Asian and East European Languages.

Jewish studies began at the university in the mid-1970s when the Associated Jewish Charities and the Meyerhoff family in Baltimore created the Louis Kaplan Chair in Jewish History.

In 1980, the unit was strengthened substantially when Harvey M. Meyerhoff created the



Marsha Rozenblit

continued on page 6

Nation's Only Foreign Language Think Tank Leads Globalization

As the world becomes a smaller place because of the global economy, language and how it is learned will become key to the United States growing as a world leader.

To that end, policy makers are relying on the expertise of the University of Maryland's National Foreign Language Center for guidance on how to shape U.S. policy on languages.

"Even as the world embraces English as the common language of the current process of globalization, the U.S. is becoming increasingly diverse, multilingual and multicultural, and is producing new faces of American culture" said Saul Sosnowski, director of the university's Office of International Programs. "As we celebrate this richness, we have to become cognizant that it requires the U.S. To formulate concrete policies and secure the necessary funding to promote the study of languages other than English in our schools."

The U.S. can become an even bigger powerhouse in globalization if it accepts and promotes the concept of multilingual speakers. "If you want to be successful in the globalized economy you better know what other people's cultural beliefs and systems are," Sosnowski said. "How are you going to relate

to other people if you don't know their culture and language? You can't presume to impose on others your language and beliefs."

The NFLC was founded in 1986 and is based in university offices in Washington, D.C. It is the only think tank on languages in the United States. NFLC director Richard Brecht, a professor in the Department of Asian and East European languages, and a renowned expert in educational foreign language policy, oversees a 14-member team at the center.

The affiliation with Maryland helps the NFLC reach regular citizens, Sosnowski said. "One of the mandates of the university is to educate members of our community. And one of our missions is to make them global citizens," he said. "Part of being a global citizen goes beyond training and discipline to knowing the nuances of other cultures as well as other languages."

NFLC's top priority now is exploring ways to move people to the highest level of fluency and proficiency, said Thomas Gething, an NFLC senior associate. "With globalization, U.S. business and government need people who are proficient in several languages."

In that vein, the collaborative effort has already yielded several

projects, including:

- Heritage language development. Heritage communities are families that speak a language other than English at home. Several projects are underway between faculty in the departments of Spanish and Portuguese and the College of Education to investigate how heritage speakers learn to navigate two worlds by speaking one language at home and another at school, said Roberta Lavine, chair of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese.
- Lang Net, a Web-based system for teachers and students to better access language resources. "Customization of language learning materials is very much in the forefront," Gething said. "And Web-based programs facilitate learning whether the student is in a conventional language class or if he or she is an independent learner." The University is taking the lead in the Lang Net project for Quechua, an indigenous Andean language taught in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese.
- The center also has developed evaluation systems for study-abroad programs, immersion language training and for U.S. government language training centers.
- The NFLC plans to set up graduate assistantships.

dateline maryland

Your Guide to University Events
November 28–December 8

november 28

11 a.m.-1 p.m., Lecture: "Talking about the World," with Noam Chomsky. (Details in **For Your Interest**, p. 8.)

3-5 p.m., Lecture: "The Design of Language," with Noam Chomsky. (Details in **For Your Interest**, p. 8.)

5-6 p.m., Forum: "Safety Forum." Atrium, Stamp Student Union. Everyone on campus is invited. For more information, contact Mahreen Majid at 301-570-7011.

november 29

9 a.m.-4 p.m., Workshop: "Using the Web for Reference." This intermediate-level workshop will cover: effective browser usage, understanding the kinds of information which can and cannot be found on the Web, different kinds of Web sites, and Web tools for finding answers quickly. Sponsored by the College of Information Studies. Computer & Space Science. Pre-registration is required. For more information, contact Robin Albert at 5-2057 or ra67@umail.umd.edu, or see www.clis.umd.edu/ce/.

12-1 p.m., Lecture: "Becoming and Unbecoming White: Owning and Disowning Racial Identity," with Christine Clark, Executive Director, Office of Human Relations Programs. A Research & Development Meeting. 0114 Counseling Center. For more information, contact Stacey Holmes, seholfmes@wam.umd.edu or at 4-7690.

12:30-2 p.m., Panel Discussion: "Democratization and Environmental Protection in the Former Soviet Union," with Laura Jewett, National Democratic Institute; Kate Waters, Initiative for Social Action and Renewal in Eurasia; and Allison Morill Chatrchyan, doctoral candidate, Dept. of Government and Politics. Part of the Harrison Speaker series. CIDCM conference room (0139 Tydings). Lunch will be served.

4:30 p.m., Event: "Fides et Ratio and Philosophical Inquiry." A study of the pope's

encyclical on the relationship between faith and reason will feature Jude P. Dougherty, dean emeritus, Catholic University

PBS/ALS Diversity Video Series Continues

Race & Diversity and Diversity & The Arts PBS/ALS Videos for Educators Series presents an array of video presentations on a variety of topics of interest. Videos will be presented Nov. 28 and 29 and Dec. 1, 6 and 8 on subjects ranging from French art and architecture to Africans in America to matters of race, class and health. Screenings take place either in Hornbake Library or McKeldin Library at various times. For complete program details, visit www.pbs.org/als/ce.

of America School of Philosophy. Part of the Fides et Ratio Lecture and Discussion series. Welcome by John Convey, provost, CUA. Introduction by the Rev. Kurt Pritzl, O.P., dean, CUA School of Philosophy. Sophia Aguirre, CUA professor of economics, will serve as moderator. Auditorium, Caldwell Hall, The Catholic University of America. For more information, call Anca Nemoianu at 202-319-5256.

7:30-9:30 p.m., Lecture: "Racial Realities Under and After Apartheid in South Africa." With Dumisa Ntsebeza, former member, Truth and Reconciliation Commission, South Africa. Reception to follow. For more information, contact the Committee on South Africa and the Americas at 5-6835 or ab81@umail.umd.edu.

8 p.m., Performance: "U.S. Navy Commodores," the Navy's premier jazz ensemble and one of the finest big bands in the country. The group will perform swing, be-bop, and contemporary, high-energy jazz. The Inn & Conference Center. For more information, call 5-7847.

november 30

9 a.m.-4 p.m., Workshop: "Strategies for Managing Records & Archives on Web Sites," will address the role of archivists and records managers; the Internet as a records-transmitting system; official records on Web sites; strategies for archival and records management involvement; and specific strategies for managing records on Web sites. 2111 Stamp Student Union. Pre-registration is required. For more information, contact Robin Albert at 5-2057 or ra67@umail.umd.edu, or see www.clis.umd.edu/ce/.

9 a.m.-4 p.m., Workshop: "Intermediate MS Access." Learn to normalize sample tables by identifying design problems; establish relationships between tables; customize table designs; design select queries; customize report designs. 4404 Computer & Space Science. For information, 5-0443 or oit-training@umail.umd.edu, or visit www.inform.umd.edu/shortcourses/.

3-7 p.m., Event: "Taste of Africa/Craft Show." Atrium, Stamp Student Union. For more information, contact Ugo Nwachukwu at 5-0077.

4-5 p.m., Distinguished Scholar Teacher Lecture: "Stochastic Control: From Hawks to Chips," with Dr. Steven Marcus, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. Reception follows the lecture. 1410 Physics Building. For more information, contact Rhonda Malone at 5-2509 or rmalone@deans.umd.edu.

8 p.m., Performance: "Graduate Dance Concert." Dance Theater, Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center. For program information, call Paul Jackson at 5-7304. For tickets, call 5-7847.

calendar guide:

Calendar phone numbers listed as 4-xxxx or 5-xxxx stand for the prefix 314 or 405. Calendar information for *Outlook* is compiled from a combination of inform's master calendar and submissions to the *Outlook* office.

Submissions are due two weeks prior to the date of publication. To reach the calendar editor, call 405-7615 or e-mail to outlook@accmail.umd.edu.

Events are free and open to the public unless noted by an asterisk ().

8 p.m., Performance: "Comedy of Errors." The National Players present Shakespeare's enduring tale of mistaken identities. Tawes Theatre. For tickets and information, call 5-7847. (Details in **For Your Interest**, p. 8.)*

december 1

9:30 a.m., Presentation & Workshop: "The Meyerhold Biomechanics Technique of Acting." Led by Kathleen Baum of Syracuse University. The method integrates voice and text into physical work. Room 3736, Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center. To register, or for more information, call 5-6676.

11 a.m., Lecture: "Gap Detection and Reflex Modification in Elderly Adults," with Amanda Lauer. Integrative Neurosciences Fall Seminar series. 1128 Biology/Psychology Bldg. For information, contact lharvey@psyc.umd.edu.

12-1:30 p.m., Forum: "U.S. News Rankings: How Are They Determined, and Are They Important?" Campus Assessment Working Group forum. Maryland Room, Marie Mount Hall. (Details in **For Your Interest**, page 8.)

2 p.m., Lecture: "Department of Linguistics Colloquium," with Michel de Graff (lecture title TBA). 1304 Marie Mount Hall. For more information, contact Graciela Tesan at graciela@wam.umd.edu or visit www.ling.umd.edu/Events/Colloquia/Fall00/.

2 p.m., Lecture: "Conservation Biological Control of Pests: Managing Multi-Trophic Level Effects." With Steve Wratten, professor of ecology, Lincoln University, Canterbury, New Zealand. 1140 Plant Sciences. Please note that Dec. 1 is the correct date (the lecture was originally scheduled for Nov. 27). For information, contact Paula Shrewsbury at 5-7664.

8 p.m., Concert: "14th Century French Music by Guillaume de Machaut & Contemporaries." Fifteen singers and ten instrumentalists perform secular and sacred music, including portions of the "Messe de Nostre Dame." Ulrich Recital Hall, Tawes Fine Arts Building. For more information, call 5-7847.

8 p.m., Performance: "Comedy of Errors." (Details in **For Your Interest**, p. 8.)*

december 2

8 p.m., Performance: "Comedy of Errors." (Details in **For Your Interest**, p. 8.)*

8 p.m., Concert: "Annual Christmas Concerts." (Details in **For Your Interest**, p. 8.)*

december 3

2 p.m., Performance: "Comedy of Errors." (Details in **For Your Interest**, p. 8.)*

2 p.m., Concert: "Annual Christmas Concerts." (Details in **For Your Interest**, p. 8.)*

8 p.m., Performance: "An Evening of Flamenco" with Gerard Moreno & Friends. Singing, dance and guitar. Ulrich Recital Hall, Tawes Fine Arts Building. For more information, call 5-7847.

december 5

7:30 p.m., Concert: "Honors Chamber Music." Showcasing the best of the School of Music's outstanding chamber music program. Features a review of master chamber works performed by string, wind and piano students. Ulrich Recital Hall, Tawes Fine Arts Building. For more information, call 5-7847.

8 p.m., Concert: "Holiday Concert" by University Chorale. Featured works include "Psalm 90" and selections from "Ceremony of Carols." Memorial Chapel. For more information, call 5-5571.

Outlook

Outlook is the weekly faculty-staff newspaper serving the University of Maryland campus community.

Brodie Remington • Vice President for University Relations

Teresa Flannery • Executive Director of University Communications and Director of Marketing

George Cathcart • Executive Editor

Monette Austin Bailey • Editor

Cynthia Mitchel • Assistant Editor

Patty Henetz • Graduate Assistant

Letters to the editor, story suggestions and campus information are welcome. Please submit all material two weeks before the Tuesday of publication.

Send material to Editor, *Outlook*, 2101 Turner Hall, College Park, MD 20742

Telephone • (301) 405-7615
Fax • (301) 314-9344
E-mail • outlook@accmail.umd.edu



december 6

9 a.m.-4 p.m., Workshop: "Developments in Privacy Law: The Contest between Business and the Individual." A comprehensive look at privacy law, practice and policy. For information professionals interested in more fully understanding their privacy rights or the privacy law obligations of their employers. Sponsored by the College of Information Studies. 2111 Stamp Student Union. Pre-registration is required. For more information, contact Robin Albert, 5-2057 or ra67@umail.umd.edu, or visit www.clis.umd.edu/ce/.

12 noon, Meeting: "Faculty-Staff Lesbian Bisexual Women's Group." Informal brown-bag lunch meeting in 2101 Health Center. For information, contact Bellsey@health.umd.edu.

12-1 p.m., Lecture: "Love and Work: An Attachment-Theoretical Perspective of Career Exploration," with Patrick Feehan, Psychological Intern, Counseling Center. A Research & Development Meeting. 0114 Counseling Ctr. For more information, scholmes@wam.umd.edu or 4-7690.

4 p.m., Graduate School Distinguished Lecture: "Gravitational Waves: A New Window onto the Universe," with Dr. Kip Thorne, California Institute of Technology. 1412 Physics. For more information, call 5-4936.

december 7

8 p.m., Lecture: "Generation of the Earth's Unique Continental Crust," with Roberta Rudnick. 1140 Plant Sciences. (Details in **For Your Interest**, page 8.)

december 8

9 a.m.-4 p.m., Workshop: "Introduction to Web Page Design, Construction and Publishing." This introductory workshop will cover the basics of designing, building, and publishing useful Web pages. Computer & Space Science. Pre-registration is required. For information, contact Robin Albert at ra67@umail.umd.edu or 5-2057, or see www.clis.umd.edu/ce/.

eDorm Launched for Student CEOs

Students in the Hinman Campus Entrepreneurship Opportunities (CEO) Program will receive a valuable boost in their efforts to become businessmen and women. Avaya Communication, which began a partnership with the university last year, will wire Garrett Hall with desktop videoconferencing, multimedia messaging, high-speed data connections, wireless roaming technology and other technology tools.

Visitors can tour the eDorm beginning at 11 a.m. tomorrow, Nov. 29. The launch will feature demonstrations and a chance to talk with undergraduate students living and learning in the suite-style dormitory. The CEO program is cosponsored by the Engineering Research Center of the A. James Clark School of Engineering and the Dingman Center for Entrepreneurship of the Robert H. Smith School of Business. For more information about the program, visit www.hinmanceos.umd.edu.

South African Judge Addresses Racial Realities

Prominent Anti-Apartheid Activist Continues Lifelong Fight Against Racism

Dumisa Ntsebeza, one of South Africa's most prominent political activists during and after the reign of apartheid, will give a talk on his country's race relations and history on Nov. 29 at 7:30 p.m. in room 2203, Art-Sociology Building.

A judge and former chief investigator for South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Ntsebeza will speak on "Racial Realities Under and After Apartheid in South Africa." The lecture is sponsored by the University of Maryland's Committee on Africa and the Americas.

Ntsebeza is particularly well-positioned to address the question of South African race relations. Under the apartheid regime, he was the target of several assassination attempts by the apartheid security forces, spent many years in prison and was later sent into exile by the South African government.

While in prison, Ntsebeza pursued his law studies through a correspondence course. After apartheid was dismantled, he became President Nelson Mandela's choice to be chief investigator for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Operating under the rubric "the truth shall set you free," the commission insisted that honesty offers societies the best possibility of working through conflict rather

than returning to bloodshed. In exchange for full disclosure, perpetrators of politically and racially motivated crimes in South Africa were granted full amnesty.

Operating under the rubric "the truth shall set you free," the commission insisted that honesty offers societies the best possibility of working through conflict.

Ntsebeza believes this process of reconciliation can help other African countries torn apart by civil war, such as Burundi, Nigeria and Guinea-Bissau.

Currently, Ntsebeza's law firm specializes in handling political cases. He is the founding president of the National Association of Democratic Lawyers, which represents victims of

discrimination and racism. He also encourages white South Africans to participate actively in the nation-building process through reparations to blacks, financial investment, the creation of an independent press and the establishment of more diverse administrative agencies.

The lecture is part of a series entitled "Resistance and Social Justice in Africa and the Diaspora," sponsored by the Committee on Africa and the Americas. The committee is a joint project of the College of Arts and Humanities and the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences. It combines an informal cluster of courses drawn from several departments in different colleges and a series of extracurricular events designed to complement students' classroom study.

More specifically, it asserts the existence of an ongoing tradition of black resistance to the dehumanizing effects of enslavement, colonization and systems of legal segregation such as Jim Crow and apartheid. It also emphasizes the ways in which resistance has been transformed into demands for social justice.

This year the committee has sponsored a panel discussion on race and contemporary politics in Cuba, and a poetry reading, "Voices from the African Diaspora."

A reception will follow the lecture. For more information, call 301-405-6835.

Biosciences Research and Technology Review Day

continued from page 1

Xi, the review day was the first of what organizers hope will become an annual event. Those not affiliated with Maryland were also encouraged to attend.

"The poster session/luncheon provided a wonderful venue for exchanging ideas first hand," said Jan N. Johannessen, Ph.D., a research biologist in the Office of Applied Research and Safety Assessment at the FDA's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition. "One purpose of attending was to find scientists who may have an interest in collaborating on research projects which would benefit from data generated at our newly established MRI facility."

The FDA and Maryland run the Joint Institute for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition.



Attendees view and discuss the work of presenters during the afternoon projects review session. More than a dozen areas of study were represented.

Photo by Cynthia Mitchell

Maryland Chapter of Mortar Board Seeks Alumni

The Adele H. Stamp Chapter of Mortar Board is seeking Mortar Board alumni who are currently faculty or staff members at the University of Maryland. More than 30 seniors are active members of Mortar Board this year and are interested in developing positive relationships with past Mortar Board members.

Mortar Board, a national collegiate honor society, has 206 chapters nationwide with a membership of over 200,000. Members are chosen based on their achievements in scholarship, leadership, and service. During their senior year, members participate in various activities such as service projects supporting the national service project, "Reading is Leading," student leadership training, and recognizing the positive works of their peers.

If you are a Mortar Board alumni of any Mortar Board chapter across the country, please contact Manisha Madan, Alumni Relations Coordinator, at mmadan@wam.umd.edu, or RJ Holmes, Senior Chapter Advisor, at (301) 314-7603 or at rholmes@accmail.umd.edu.

UM Center for Humor to Honor Herb Block

The Art Gliner Center for Humor Studies at the University of Maryland will give its first Rubber Chicken award to Washington Post cartoonist Herb Block, better known by his pen name Herblock. The event will take place from 4:30-6 p.m. on Nov. 27 at the National Press Club.

"Herb Block has a century of dominance in political cartooning," said Lawrence E. Mintz, director of the Gliner Center and a professor at Maryland. "He's the perfect person to receive our first award because he's one of the most important humorist/satirists

in America today."

Maryland is the only university in the country with a center dedicated to research on the role of humor in social and cultural life. The center supports the study of humor through research and teaching, and by sponsoring lectures, workshops, conferences, symposia and other activities.

Block has been a cartoonist at the Washington Post for more than 54 years.

Also, don't miss the exhibit "Herblock's History: Cartoons Crash to the Millennium" at the Library of Congress through Oct. 17, 2001.

"WE HAVE ANOTHER COMPROMISE-WE'LL HOLD THE INAUGURATION BETWEEN NOW AND JANUARY 20"



To Close or Not to Close: The Eternal Winter Question

There's a nip in the air, and the colorful leaves have mostly fallen, so it won't be long before snow tumbles out of the sky and Maryland students, faculty and staff ask the eternal question: "Can we take off and go sledding today?"

One of the toughest decisions that Provost Greg Geoffroy has to make is whether to close the university during inclement weather. Several times each winter, enough snow or ice accumulates in the area to force Geoffroy to determine whether conditions pose a threat to safety that is greater than the need to carry on the university's operations.

The decision-making process begins about 4:30 a.m. on snow days, when Frank Brewer, assistant vice president for facilities management, arrives on campus to assess road, sidewalk and building conditions. Brewer tours the campus and talks with tram drivers who have been operating during the night to get an idea of the conditions. Brewer's assessment is based on more than depth of snow. The consistency and texture of the snow, temperatures and winds can make even a light snow dangerous, Brewer says.

Brewer and his staff also consult numerous forecasts to determine whether conditions will worsen or stabilize as the day goes on. Since many students, faculty and staff commute to the campus, Brewer also studies conditions in other parts of the metro area where driving may be more dangerous than in and around College Park. Brewer has created a "war room" with numerous televisions and computers

to monitor road conditions and forecasts from as many sources as possible.

Once he has gathered as much information as possible, Brewer calls Geoffroy to outline existing and predicted conditions. Geoffroy then has to choose whether to let the university stay open for the day, open late

few may face more difficult conditions. When the university remains open, individuals need to make their own determination about their safety.

Geoffroy stresses that safety is the principal consideration, and the big challenge is knowing when discomfort and inconvenience cross over the line to danger.

"Closing the university is a major undertaking that affects thousands of people, scheduled activities and projects," Geoffroy says. "We can't do that lightly. Nor can we take a casual attitude toward safety issues."

When the university does stay open on snowy days, Geoffroy encourages faculty and supervisors to do several things: Faculty and supervisors should exercise leniency with regard to absences on those days. Some people genuinely can't get here, and should not be unduly penalized. Faculty should make every effort to let their students know if they are unable to come to class on those days. The easiest way is to record a voice mail message informing their students that class is canceled.

Geoffroy also noted that his decision about opening or closing is independent of what other schools, colleges and universities may do.

"We all have different considerations," he said. "Even University College, which is adjacent to us, may close on days when conditions are quite safe here on campus. They conduct programs at numerous other facilities, including schools and community colleges, which may be closed. So they are at the mercy of those facilities."

The university notifies the following media when weather forces a closing or delayed opening:

Washington Radio:

WWRC/WGAY-FM
WAVA
WRQX
WTOP/WASH
WMAL
WHFS
WPGC

Washington TV:

WJLA, 7
WRC, 4
WUSA, 9
WTTG, 5
NewsChannel 8

Baltimore Radio:

WLIF
WBAL
WCAO
WPOC

Baltimore TV

WMAR, 2
WBAL, 11
WJZ, 13

to allow snow removal equipment time to do its work, or close for the day.

That decision, Geoffroy says, is based on what is in the best interest of the university community as a whole, recognizing that while most people may be able to make it safely to the campus on a given day, a

HOW TO KNOW IF WE'RE OPEN

As soon as a decision is made about the university's status in inclement weather, the Office of University Communications undertakes a three-pronged effort to notify the community.

Status reports are posted on the university home page (www.umd.edu) and the inform page (www.inform.umd.edu) as quickly as possible, normally by 6 a.m.

The university's status is also available by calling the snow hotline at 301-405-SNOW (7669).

All radio and television stations in Baltimore and Washington that carry school closing information are notified by phone, by 6 a.m.

These notices are implemented in that

order, and faculty, staff and students should look for status information in that order as well. If at all possible, check the Web or the snow hotline first.

While most local media do the best they can with closing information, they are not completely reliable for this purpose. They are trying to report hundreds of closings, and they do make mistakes, particularly in confusing the various institutions with "University of Maryland" as part of their names.

In addition, the university notifies the media only when we are closed. The Web site and the hotline will always have accurate and up-to-date status information in the event of inclement weather.

Campus Hosts Harvard Professor Cornel West at Nyumburu Center

In an event that was part book signing and part call to action, Harvard professor Cornel West addressed a large crowd Nov. 20 at Nyumburu Cultural Center. West and Harvard colleague Henry Louis Gates, Jr., penned *The African-American Century: 100 Black Americans Who Shaped America* to highlight what West said were "persons who constituted a struggle for freedom and democracy."

The book includes icons such as Martin Luther King, Jr. and George Washington Carver. However, it also looks at people such as novelist Alice Walker, jockey Jimmy Winkfield and rap artist Tupac Shakur. One element common to the 100 individuals was "a quest for freedom not reducible to personal prosperity and security, but a quest for self-respect, integrity and lifting one's voice."

Following brief remarks, West opened the floor for questions that ranged from how to create a bridge between generations for mobilization to how the ebb and flow of black people's

progress fits within the larger society.

Co-sponsored by Vertigo Books, the Committee on Africa & the Americas and the College of Education, the event



was part of the college's Center for Education Policy and Leadership's Continuing Colloquium Series "Diversity & Community in American Life series."

Cornel West emphasizes a point during his appearance at the Nyumburu Cultural Center last week, above. At right, West signs a copy of his new book, *The African American Century*, for a fan.



Photographs by Cynthia Mitchell

Outlook Welcomes Terp as New Editor

The Office of University Communications welcomes Monette Austin Bailey (Journalism 1989) as the new editor of Outlook, the faculty/staff weekly newspaper.

Bailey comes back to the campus after spending six years as the editor in chief of the print division of Children's Express (www.cenews.org), an international news service produced by children 8-18 years old. Their features and commentary ran on the New York Times news wire, in unaffiliated newspapers and magazines and on several Web sites. The young people also produced radio pieces for National Public Radio.

Prior to this position, Bailey worked as a features reporter for The Daily Press in Newport News, Va., where she covered young people and popular culture.

"It is such a wonderful thing to come back to Maryland," she says. "I enjoyed my time here as a student, and I look forward to serving the faculty and staff community. One of my missions is to make sure all departments consider Outlook a place to showcase their accomplishments and programs."



"People used to say, 'Why would people with learning disabilities go to college?'" —William Scales, assistant director of the counseling center in charge of disability support, comments on the rise of students with learning disabilities enrolling, and succeeding, on college campuses. Nine hundred students at the university presented documentation of learning disabilities. (Baltimore Sun, Nov. 15)

"I'm looking at the situation right now in Palm Beach, where they're talking about examining ballots, and I'm thinking, there's no way the Internet could have done anything but make that situation worse." —Paul Hermann, professor of government and politics and director of the Center for American Politics and Citizenship, thinks e-voting is not ready for the prime time of presidential elections. (Orlando Sentinel, Nov. 12)

"The comity is gone. They're pretty cranky." —Allen Schick, professor in the School of Public Affairs, succinctly describes how Congressional Democrats feel about Republicans, and vice-versa, on Capitol Hill. (Knight Ridder News Services, Nov. 9)

"Take alcohol, for example. Both space programs prohibit it in orbit, and NASA is quite strict. Russia isn't. 'Cosmonauts manage to smuggle some quantities,' said Roald Sagdeev, a former top space adviser to then-Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. 'We were always trying to close our eyes to it.' Watching astronauts handle their conflicts could be more gripping than television's 'Survivor' series, because this is an island from which no one can be banished, said Sagdeev... And like 'Survivor,' the specter of sex may hang around, but will not be talked about openly. Although the first crew is all male, the next one up, in February, includes a female U.S. astronaut." —Roald Sagdeev, director of the East West Space Science Center on campus and distinguished university professor of physics, comments on the intrusion of the real world into orbit. (Newark Star-Ledger, Oct. 30)

"It's amazing how much energy she can get into a painting just nine inches high. The energy comes from overpainting, underpainting, varicolored outlines and a constant sense of dance." —A euphoric reviewer commenting on the works of Patrice Kehoe, associate professor of art, in the Washington Post, Nov. 16.

"We need military strength, but that's simply not enough. If all you have is a hammer, everything you look at looks like nails." —Ernest Wilson, director of the Center for International Development and Conflict Management, participates in a Council of Foreign Relations debate of issues in Atlanta. Wilson sided with a balanced, proportional approach to international affairs, taking issue with ex-Congressman Newt Gingrich. (Atlanta Journal, Oct. 26)

"I want to take a paragraph to rant about drivers not giving bikes a break. I was riding around the university campus and some driver told me to get off the road! I want to tell car drivers to brush up on vehicle law, especially as it relates to sharing the road with bicycles. As vehicles, bikes are not legally allowed to travel on the sidewalk, so we must share a lane with you, as displeasing a notion as that is for us." —Michael Rainey, writing to the Washington Post's Dr. Gridlock, and pointing out the obvious: bicyclists deserve courtesy on campus. (Nov. 16)

"But Captain Don Smith, a spokesman for the university's police department, said security measures will not help once a rapist is alone with a woman in a dormitory or apartment. 'Once two people get into a room together, the locks and all the security are no longer a factor.'" —In a story on alcohol and date rape, Smith points out that 24-hour escorts, shuttle bus service to dormitories, emergency phones and classes on security don't matter if a student allows the wrong person into their room. (Baltimore Sun, Nov. 13)

"He (Leitenberg) concludes that most discussions on bioterrorism have been characterized by rhetoric that is 'thoughtless, ill-considered, counterproductive and extravagant.'" —Milton Leitenberg of the Center for International and Security Studies at Maryland in the School of Public Affairs was interviewed in depth by The Economist on the likelihood of germ warfare by terrorists. (Nov. 18)

"The intimidation of black voters is nothing new. The intimidation of black voters was higher this year because the black vote was a threat." —Ron Walters, professor of government and politics, appraises the reality of blacks voting in Florida on Election Day, 2000. (Newsday, Nov. 19)



NOTABLE

Dean of Libraries **Charles B. Lowry** is the founding Executive Editor of a new journal published by The Johns Hopkins University Press and which will be part of the MUSE electronic journal offerings.

"portal: Libraries and the Academy," an international journal, is intended to address the challenges facing academic libraries worldwide in an age of information explosion and at a time when print and electronic publishing must coexist. "portal" is a refereed journal, publishing articles that focus on issues confronting libraries and librarians in higher education. This journal will also provide a forum for articles about the ways in which higher education deals with information issues, such as the support of distance learning, the relationship between libraries and computing centers, and the economic underpinnings of the research and scholarly enterprise.

Lowry co-edits the journal with Susan K. Martin, Georgetown University Librarian, and Gloriana St. Clair, University Librarian at Carnegie Mellon University.

Sandy Kita, associate professor of art history and archaeology, has been named a 2000-2001 Lilly-CTE Fellow. Kita specializes in the study of Japanese paintings of the 17th to 19th centuries known as Ukiyo-e. His 1999 book, "The Last Tosa: Iwasa Katsumochi Matabei, Bridge to Ukiyo-E," won subventions from the Millard Meiss Fund of the College Art Association and from the Japan Foundation.

Kita is currently working on exhibitions at the Library of Congress, the Baylys Museum of the University of Virginia and here at the Art Gallery. Throughout his career he has been committed to teaching undergraduates, and has been a member of the CORE sub-group for four years. Committed to campus diversity, Kita hopes to broaden the appeal of Asian arts studies.

Lilly-CTE Fellows are chosen for their involvement in teaching issues and in-depth examination of perspectives on diversity, evaluation of teaching and what university students should learn before graduation. Fellows receive an award of \$3,000 and meet in a year-long seminar in which they define issues and topics of mutual concern and explore ways to increase the quality and value of teaching and learning on campus.

Safety and Security Panel Seeks Input

In the wake of recent crimes, including sexual assaults, President C. D. Mote acted upon a proposal by the President's Student Advisory Council to organize a safety and security panel consisting of faculty, staff and student members. The panel is charged with reviewing existing safety measures, listening to the concerns of the campus community and forwarding its conclusions, with recommendations as appropriate, to the president.

The campus community is encouraged to voice their concerns and recommendations during the panel's next meeting, Nov. 28 from 4-6 p.m. in 1110 Main Administration.

Panel members will develop recommendations at a final meeting, scheduled for Dec. 4 from 4-6, after comparing the problems and concerns with existing and planned institutional action.

For further information, contact Warren Kelley, executive assistant to the Vice President for Student Affairs, at 301-314-8436 or at wkelly@accmail.umd.edu.

Admired Facilities Foreman Retires



Photo by Cynthia Mitchell

Those roasting Bob Matthews at his retirement lunch last week had a hard time finding anything to needle him about.

Matthews, an area maintenance zone foreman, has spent 27 years with the university. His last day on the job will be Dec. 1. He was honored by friends and co-workers at Sir Walter Raleigh Inn restaurant, where his wife, Norma, joined him.

In a future issue, *Outlook* will highlight several employees, specifically those in facilities, who have 20-, 30- and even 40-year service records at the university.

Physicist to Discuss Exploration of the Universe's Wrinkles

Professor Kip Thorne, Richard Feynman Professor of Theoretical Physics at the California Institute of Technology, is the next speaker in the graduate school's Distinguished Lecturer series this semester. His lecture, "Gravitational Waves: A New Window onto the Universe," will take place Dec. 6 at 4 p.m. in Lecture Hall 1412 in the Physics Building.

Professor Thorne has been mentor and thesis advisor for about 40 Ph.D. physicists, many of whom have gone on to become world leaders in their fields of research. Among other works to his credit, he co-authored *Gravitation Theory*

and *Gravitational Collapse* (1965) and *Gravitation* (1973), from which most of the present generation of scientists have learned general relativity.

Dr. Thorne developed much of the mathematical formalism by which astrophysicists analyze the generation of gravitational waves. He is a co-founder (with Ronald Drever and Rainer Weiss) of the LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory) Project. University of Maryland Professor Joseph Weber, beginning in the 1960s, pioneered the design and the construction of gravitational wave detectors.

Dr. Thorne is currently interested in the issue of whether the laws of physics permit

space and time to be multiply connected (can there exist classical, traversible wormholes, and "time machines"?). He laid the foundations for the theory of pulsations of relativistic stars and the gravitational waves they emit.

Gravitational waves are ripples of warpage in the fabric of space-time, predicted by Einstein's general relativity theory. Colliding black holes, spinning neutron stars, and the Big Bang birth of the universe should all produce strong gravitational waves, and those waves should carry detailed information about their sources—for example, a detailed map of the space-time warpage around a black hole.

UM Celebrates 20 Years of Jewish Studies

continued from page 1

Harvey M. Meyerhoff Chair in Jewish History and also donated money for the Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Center for Jewish Studies. While the Meyerhoff chair has funded Rozenblit's position since 1980, her recent promotion to full professor makes her eligible to officially hold the chair.

In the mid-1990s Jewish studies courses were listed together. It was time to recognize the relevance of Jews to society, Rozenblit said.

"Part of the university's mission is to study and understand the development of society.

And Jewish studies is part of that mission, especially in today's political climate," Rozenblit said. "It does more than raise consciousness. We are convinced the Jewish experience is an integral part of western civilization."

In the future, Jewish Studies faculty plan to further develop the post-doctoral fellowship program, and continue work on building a first-rate Judaica collection in the library, Rozenblit said. Long-term plans include developing several graduate programs, including masters programs linked with the College

of Education. Plans also include fortifying an already existing Ph.D. program in Jewish History.

Rozenblit said her research, and that of all faculty, expands students' knowledge and understanding of the human condition. "It makes us better teachers because we understand the past and human culture," she said. "Without research and scholarship we would only have 'information,' and not the wonderfully exciting exploration of human society and culture. It is only because I do scholarship—research and writing—that I am able to be an effective teacher."

Getting a Line on Who's Online

Take it as an indication that the Internet has become a well-accepted, mainstream institution: serious academic researchers have begun comprehensive measurements of the medium's social impact. Both on and off the University of Maryland campus, researchers want to see how the Internet's rapid transformation affects social behavior. "Unlike television, we want to get in there from the beginning to chart its impact," says University of Maryland sociologist, Alan Neustadt. "Up until now, much of the data collected has been for market research. But now we're trying to answer some serious theoretical questions."

A new, comprehensive survey confirms just how solidly entrenched the Internet has become in the past few years. UCLA's Center for Communications Policy

surveyed more than 2,000 households and reports that two-thirds of American families now go on the 'net. More than one-third of the holdouts plan to get online within the next year, it says. Jeffrey Cole, director of the UCLA center, says Surveying the Digital Future is the first project "that comprehensively tracks shifts in a wide range of behavior, attitudes, values, and perceptions."

Cole will come to the University of Maryland to discuss the report on Dec. 1 at 12:15 p.m. in Room 1139 of the Stamp Student Union. The report itself is available on-line at www.ccp.ucla.edu/pages/internet-report.asp.

Cole's presentation marks the first public activity of a new research effort at the University that also is intended to measure the social impact of the Internet. This fall the National Science Foundation (NSF) awarded

the Sociology Department \$2.7 million to create an innovative, multi-disciplinary program.

In part, the grant will allow researchers to collect a powerful array of data. Sociologist John Robinson, co-principal investigator along with Neustadt, says by "piggy-backing on the leading national and international attitudinal surveys, we will be able to produce the most complete picture of Internet impact to date." The project also will create an interactive Web site providing access to the latest data about Internet use. Throughout the year, Robinson plans to bring major speakers to campus, and next summer, the grant will pay for a "Webshop," bringing together nearly 100 graduate students, social scientists and Internet analysts.

Sociology's NSF grant represents more than one-quarter of the \$9.7 million awarded the University to study the Internet.

Comprehensive Risk Management Plan Earns UM a SERMA

Lab assistants and scientists rest easy, the university is indeed a safe place to conduct your research.

According to the governor's office, the university's Department of Environmental Safety's Risk Management department is one of the finest in the state. It was recently awarded a SERMA, the annual State Employees' Award of Excellence for Risk Management.

Donna McMahon, assistant director of risk management and communications, said the award reflects

Maryland's 16 percent decrease in injuries over the last two years. An improved record and a comprehensive risk management program contributed to the recognition.



McMahon, center, receives the award from Lisa Kruska, Injured Workers Insurance Fund (IWIF) Vice President, Policyholder Services and Preston Williams, IWIF Chief Operating Officer.



Photo by Cynthia Mitchell

For Your Interest

Lingua Franca

Noam Chomsky, a pivotal figure in contemporary linguistics, politics, cognitive psychology and philosophy, is the invited speaker in the 2000 Blackwell/Maryland lectures, a series of lectures on language and cognition sponsored jointly by Blackwell Publishers and the University of Maryland.

Chomsky will give two lectures on campus today, Tuesday, Nov. 28. The first, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in room 0135 Armory Building, is entitled "Talking about the World." The second will take place from 3-5 p.m. in room 0200 Skinner and its subject will be "The Design of Language."

The lectures are free and open to the public. No ticket or preregistration is required; therefore, it is advisable to arrive early for a good seat.

For more information, contact Kathi Faulkingham at kf4@umail.umd.edu.

A new biography by Robert Barsky entitled "Noam Chomsky: A Life of Dissent" explores Chomsky's life and work, investigating the political, philosophical and linguistic worlds within which we live, and about which Chomsky writes. The book is available at <http://mitpress.mit.edu/book-home.tcl?isbn=0262522551>. Or contact chomsky@MIT.EDU for book sale information.

Our Crusty Continent

Every rock we are likely to see is part of the Earth's four-billion-year-old crust, be it sediment, volcano or the eroded core of the Appalachian mountains.

Learning how this crust is created will help us to understand how our planet is formed and how it evolved, and how useful substances like iron, gold and quartz are put within human reach near the surface.

Join Roberta Rudnick, a new member of the Geology Department faculty and a world expert on the creation and evolution of the Earth's crust, as she tackles these questions in her lecture "Generation of the Earth's Unique Continental Crust," part of the series Earth Science Talks.

The lecture will take place on Thursday, Dec. 7 from 8-9 p.m. in 1140 Plant Sciences. For more information, call 301-405-4365 or visit www.geol.umd.edu/pages/EventsNews/public.htm.

Voices from Heaven

The University of Maryland Chorus presents its Annual Christmas Concerts this Saturday and Sunday in the Memorial Chapel.

The chorus, dubbed "voices from heaven" by the Washington Post, will perform its annual crowd-pleasing concert of seasonal fare, including an audience sing-along of traditional carols. Led by music director Edward Maclary, the concert will feature guest appearances by the Prism Bass Quintet, Faculty Brass and organist William Neil.

Featured works include the challenging "Psalm 90," one of Charles Ives's greatest vocal works, and selections from "Ceremony of Carols" by Benjamin Britten with solo harp, as well as works by Monteverdi, Di Lasso, Gibbons and

Weelkes. Other highlights include Renaissance singing by the University Chamber Singers.

The concerts will take place on Saturday, Dec. 2 at 8:00 p.m. and on Sunday, Dec. 3 at 2 p.m. in Memorial Chapel. For more information, call 301-405-5571. For tickets, call the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center box office at 301-405-7847.

Comedy of Errors

The National Players will perform Shakespeare's enduring tale of mistaken identities at the Tawes Theatre beginning on Nov. 30. Their production of "A Comedy of Errors" places the action in the Cold War era of 1960s Turkey.

Director Carey Upton, who teaches acting at Maryland and who has directed many productions of works by Shakespeare and other playwrights, observes that "this is a young man's play, containing a young man's thoughts and sense of humor." Reflecting those sensibilities, the play contains plenty of physical comedy. But there are also pertinent lessons about the nature of identity through the story of the mixup of two sets of twins.

The production will run four days, beginning on Thursday, Nov. 30 at 8 p.m. with performances at the same time on the evenings of Dec. 1 and 2. It will also be performed on Sunday, Dec. 3 at 2 p.m.

For tickets and information, call The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center at 301-405-7847.

Rank and File

Join the Campus Assessment Working Group (CAWG) for its third forum of the year, entitled "U.S. News Rankings: How Are They Determined, and Are They Important?" Staff from the office of Institutional Research and Planning will present information on how the U.S. News rankings of undergraduate education at national universities are used by the public, how they are calculated and how they impact the university. Alternative methods to measure the quality of a university education will also be described.

The forum will take place on Friday, Dec. 1 from 12-1:30 p.m. in the Maryland Room of Marie Mount Hall. A light lunch will be served. As space is limited, those interested in attending must RSVP promptly to cawg@umail.umd.edu. For more information, call CAWG at 301-405-5590 or visit www.umd.edu/cawg.

Call for Programs

A call for programs has gone out for the 27th annual University of Maryland Student Affairs

Conference being held Feb. 9, 2001. Students, staff and faculty are welcome to submit proposals for hour-long program sessions. The deadline is Dec. 1. For more information, contact Brett Flynn at 301-226-4414 or bf34@umail.umd.edu.

Scrambled Eggs and Santa

Have you been naughty or nice this year? Either way, the University of Maryland Golf Course welcomes all who would share their wish list with jolly old St. Nick to Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 2 from 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Santa's waistline won't be diminishing anytime soon with a menu of Belgian waffles, scrambled eggs, bacon, hash browns, doughnuts, bagels and cereal, along with a little cider and hot cocoa to wash it all down.

Santa's friends CJ the elf and Minie Mo the clown will also be there to help make balloon animals and a little holiday magic.

Everyone interested in attending must reserve in advance by calling 301-403-4240. Children under 5 eat free. Bring your camera... and be good for goodness' sake!

Ralph Nader Book Signing

Vertigo Books of College Park will host an evening with Ralph Nader at the All Souls Unitarian Church in Washington, D.C., on Friday, Dec. 1.

Four generations of Americans have seen Ralph Nader as a leader on civic and political issues. From car safety in the 1960s to opposition to the WTO, Nader's work has informed citizens, increased government accountability and served as a check against the abuse of corporate power.

The essays of the *Ralph Nader Reader* follow the trajectory of Nader's concerns from 1956 to the present and his personal evolution from consumer advocate to presidential candidate. *Cutting Corporate Welfare* is his critique of the relationship between big business and the government.

Tickets for the event are available in advance at Vertigo Books, 7346 Baltimore Ave., College Park. Books to be signed must be purchased at Vertigo Books or at the event (proof of purchase will be required).

The reading and signing will take place on Friday, Dec. 1 at 7 p.m. at the All Souls Unitarian Church, 16th & Harvard Sts., NW, Washington, D.C. For more information, call Vertigo Books at 301-779-9300.

Colloquium Date Change

The Entomology Colloquium originally scheduled for Nov. 27 has been rescheduled for Dec. 1. The lecture, "Conservation Biological Control of Pests: Managing Multi-Trophic Leve Effects," will be given by Steve Wratten, professor of ecology at Lincoln University in Canterbury, New Zealand.

The lecture will be held in 1140 Plant Sciences at 2 p.m. For further information, contact Paula Shrewsbury at 301-405-7664.



Photo by Cynthia Mitchell

Fall segues into winter as every year, whipping our coats with a chill wind but auguring a new season of beauty for the campus.